

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 49 remain pending.

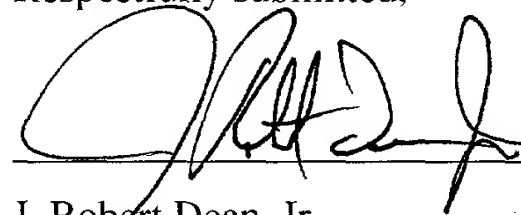
Claims 2, 16 and 17 (in addition to claims 1, 3 to 15 and 18 to 49) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failure to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 2, 16 and 17 were said to refer to a density range but not provide a unit of measurement.

The rejection of claims 2, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is not well taken since the density range refers to theoretically estimated relative density, which is dimensionless. Relative density is discussed in the specification at page 9, lines 14 to 25. Relative density is specifically mentioned at lines 23 to 25 and refers to relative density of the porous soot to the host glass composition. Since one density is compared to another density, relative density is dimensionless. The porous soot layer is mentioned at line 16, the host glass composition at line 18 and the relationship of the core and the clad at lines 24 and 25.

Reconsideration of claims 2, 16 and 17 (in addition to claims 1, 3 to 15 and 18 to 49) is deemed warranted in view of the foregoing, and allowance of said claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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